

SPOOKY SHOT By Walter Farmer

SHOT rang out, near enough so the boys in the bunkhouse at the Dophle I could hear it plainly.

"Hear that?" exclaimed Slim. "Do you reckon Deadly Diggs is messed up in another kill.

"No, that wann't Deadly Diggs' gun going off," asserted Red Top Ray, "That was our friend, Baldy, shooting a turkey bucreed, mora'n likely."

"Pech! You can't tell whose gun it was just by hearing it. All Colt 45's spund the SATIST

"If you think that, your ears need washing out, Slim! Looky! Here comes old Baldy with his turkey buggered now?"

Baldy rode up and dismounted near the bunkhouse door. He wiped his perspiring forehand and said. "Boys, the spooks must be going to have a square dance toxight. I tust came riding by the old Silver Dollar Hotel in Ghost Town-and I didn't ride too close by, you may be sure of that. Well sir, there was the mournfullest washing coming out of that hotel. Sounded like a fiddle with scute appandix-itis. And there was a queer blue hight flickering in an upstairs window. I'm telling you, you couldn't pay me to so near that place ofter nightfall?" "Humph, I thought you claimed to be a

brave man," sneered Red Top Raw "I'm not afraid of man or beast and I can lick the bombre who says I am," growled Baldy, "But spooks, they're different. They ain't burron !"

Red Top Ray scoffed. "There's no such thing as speeks."

"Is that so? Wall I don't see you in such an all fired tizzy to spend a night in Ghost Town." "Two got better things to do, such as trying to track down Deadly Diggs and his gang before they do say more mischief." "Bah, that's a job for the sheriff," declared Baldy. "You're just trying to change the subject. You're as much scared to spend a night

in Ghost Town as I am." "I'm not scared of spooks." "Well, I dare you to spend the night there!" Red Top protested against what he called

"such foolishmess" but, led by Baldy, the other cowbays bagan to heckle him and taunt him. Finally, he agreed to the dare. He would spend the night alone in the old Salver Daller Hotel in Ghost Town The old hotel really looked as if it might be haunted. Years ago it had been abendeped

when the silver veins petered our and all the people who had once made up a cough, haveling community moved away. Now the building was rickety and paintless. Window panes were shattered, dust was thick on the creaky old floors and cobwebs hung festooned from the cellings and the old chandeliers. None of which bothered Red Top, He let a

candle and entered the old building, carrying his bedroll. From a distance, just at the edge of town, Baldy, Slim and the others watched "He's realty got spunk!" Baldy admitted gradgingly. "I wonder if he'll really stay in there all night."

Slim chuckled as he thought of semething. "Let's play a joke on him, boys When it rets a mite darker we can sneak up close to the hetel and pretend we are abouts. We'll make speeky noises and all such and scare him out of there so fast be won't stop 'till he issues across the Rint"

Baldy was dublous about getting that close to the brunted hotel, but the other how, were all in favor of Slim's idea. Two of them took

(Continued on inside back cover)





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I'VE GOT A HUNCH! EVIDGNT-LY, SINCE THE COUNTERPET-















































MONTE HALE WESTERN UT MONTE HAS A





































MONTE HALE WESTERN IF YOR WINT A GOD, I'VE LET A MEAL IF YOR LIVE! BUT OF COURSE I TRUST WIR. MONTE

MONTE HALE WESTERN



ONTE HALE







MONTE HALE WESTERN















































MONTE HALE WESTERN MONTE/ WE'LL











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DVERHEAD ROTOR AN MOPELLER IN FRONT AND REPPERS







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MONTE HALE

THE PLOT ON RATTLERS' TRAIL!















(Continued from inside from cover)
a hurried ride back to the Double J bunkhouse

to get some shoets.
When it was fully dark, Sim Itd the othersscattlilly up to the rear of the old horst. The
men were wearing the sheets as ghostly robes.
They were within three feet of the bask door
as Sim whitpered. "Now when we get up close
cough, we'll all let out some hideous howle-

Not lond, but mourried liber-libe a sport that it great sets with a great set set with a great set when it great set when it great set when it great set when the set of the set will be liber liber appeared in the window. And discussive yet owns from within the bloom. And in designing white dashed across one of the upwards forms. And fill in our Balley and the rest of the "gloon communes" from the pariet of the "gloon communes" from the pariet of your for a feat they consume the pariety of the pariety of the "gloon communes" from the pariety of your for a feat they consume the pariety of your forms of the pariety of your for a feat they consumers.

juke rabbits.

Inside the botel, Red Top had dusted off a
netuces of the old earlonguey bar and laid out
his before there. Then he southed out to
his before the regular terminal properties
andle and was part beginning to done when
he heard the word, distressing cay. He opened
he speak not don move. He was the fischerting, bloich light moving in front of the weigdown. He heard the chair classifiers, areas the

ing, hluish light moving in front of the wisdown. He heard the chain clanking across the floor above.

He could see a morning, shadowy figure, but couldn't make out whether or not it was a man A voice eclosed hellowly from somewhere in the deshine. It was conflict her be seated

make out the words:
"I am the dead spirit of Jesus James, ruten from the grave to walk in silence through the black of night. I cannot rest until I get my

"Yill! It is a ghost?" yelled Red Top Ray. He sprang to the floor and raced out the front door, leaving his candle and bedroll behind. Without looking back, he ran to where he had left his horse and made a flying last for the saddle. He soon overtook the running Double J cowboys and kept on pounding

leather, handing for town.
"Lookit him go?" exclaimed Baldy. "He claimed to be so all-dred brave about ghosts and yet he's lighting out of here faster than

any of us?"
"Can't say I blame him," said Slim. "After all, he was right inside with them hauses. No telling what he naw!"

It was a couple of hours later when Ref.
Top Ray showed up at the hushbase. Note
of the row were elseping. They were still
chattering about the ghosts. Ornaning, Ray
said, "Well, I thought you boys might like
a result as your manks hefore I so back to

the botel."

"Go back? You mean you dare to go back after they scarred you out of your wits?" "They didn't scare me. I only pretended to be scarred," said Red Top. "That was so I could make my getaway and go after the

sheriff."
"The shoriff? You mean you seat the sheriff on a gloot chare?"

You see, that hotel was the hids-out of Deadly Driggs and his outil. I didn't know have made these many to these wees these because I couldn't see anybody, so that's why I got the shortfl and his deputies to surround the place. They were shorter story and the place.

snooping around their headquarters."
"But if you couldn't see him, how'd you know it was Digge?" asked \$lim.

"That was easy. You remember I was riding the stage that time when Diggs shot the driver and goard. I heard his gun thus. And I recognized it when he fired some shorts to scare me tenucks?"

THE END

Everything from Ah-h! to Zowie!

THE MAGAZINE THAT HAS ...



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